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Health Department, District of Columbia.

REGULATIONS

GOVERNING

Plumbing, House Drainage,

AND THE

Ventilation of House Sewers,

IN THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON, D. C. :
JUDD & DETWEILER, PRINTERS.

1883.

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REGULATIONS.

[Act authorizing the employment of an Inspector of Plumbing in and for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia an Inspector of Plumbing for said District, whose duty it shall be to inspect all houses in course of erection, and pass upon the plumbing and sewerage of said houses. And the Health Officer of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized, under direction of the Commissioners, to execute and enforce regulations governing plumbing, house drainage, and the ventilation of house sewers; and any person who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of the said regulations when promulgated shall be punishable by a fine of from twenty-five to two hundred dollars for each and every such offense, or in default of payment of fine to imprisonment for thirty days.

Authorizing appointment of Inspector, and execution and enforcement of regulations.

Approved January 25, 1881.

In accordance with the foregoing act of Congress, and in pursuance of authority thereby conferred, the following amended regulations are made and promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned :

Regulations to
take effect.

SEC. 1. These regulations governing plumbing, house drainage, and the ventilation of house sewers, shall take effect and be in force in the District of Columbia from and after December 1, 1882, and all work of the character named, thereafter placed in or about any structure in the said District shall be done in accordance with the provisions of the same.

Duties of Inspector
of Plumbing.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Inspector of Plumbing, under direction of the Health Officer, to sign and issue all notices and certificates, to keep a daily record of his work, including all notices and applications received, violation of these regulations, and all other

Reports to be
made.

matters which may pertain thereto; to make daily, weekly, and quarterly reports, and an annual report of his operations to the Health Officer.

Houses to be in-
spected.

SEC. 3. He shall inspect all houses in course of erection, alteration or repair, as often as may be necessary, and shall see that all plumbing, drainage, and sewerage work is done in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

Oath to be taken
and bond entered
into.

SEC. 4. He shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office, and shall, before entering upon its duties, execute a bond to the District of Columbia in the sum of five thousand dollars, with three sureties, to be approved by the Commissioners, conditioned upon the faith-

ful performance of the duties of his office, and for the benefit of all persons aggrieved by his acts or neglect.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of every person doing business as a plumber, or engaged in conducting plumbing or house drainage in the District of Columbia, to register his or her name in a book to be provided for that purpose at the Health Department, giving full name, residence, and place of business, and in case of removal from one place to another, in said District, to make change in said register accordingly, and it shall be the further duty of every such person to give good and sufficient bond in the sum of five hundred (500) dollars, to be approved by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, conditioned upon the observance of these regulations.

Plumbers to be bonded, registered, and display a sign.

It shall be the duty of every such person to display at his or her place of business in a conspicuous place a sign with full registered name and words "Registered Plumber," in letters not less than three inches in size.

SEC. 6. Before any portion of the drainage system of any building shall be laid or constructed there shall be filed by the owner with the Health Officer, for the Inspector of Plumbing, a plan thereof showing the said drainage system entire from its connection with the main sewer to terminus in house, together with the location of all traps, ventilating pipes, &c. The name of the plumber who is to perform the

Plan of plumbing work to be filed at Health Departm't.

work shall be given on said plan, which must be approved by the Inspector of Plumbing before any portion of the work shall be executed. A permit shall not be given for the erection of any building until said plan shall have been presented and approved.

Permit required
in all cases.

SEC. 7. No house or premises will be allowed to be connected with water, sewer, or gas main without a permit first obtained from the Engineer Commissioner. The conditions of this permit must be strictly complied with, and the work must be done by the plumber in whose name the permit is given.

This regulation applies to all sewers, whether on private property or in public streets or alleys.

Plumbers to notify the Engineer Commissioner of alterations, &c.

All plumbers are required to notify the Engineer Commissioner of any and all extensions or alterations of water fixtures and pipes made inside of buildings, so that the same may be examined.

Applications and blank forms to be signed by owners.

SEC. 8. Blank forms of application will be furnished to plumbers. All applications must be signed by the owner of the premises, and his address written under his signature. Signing by agents will not be accepted if the owner resides in the District of Columbia.

Fee required.

SEC. 9. One dollar is required by law to be paid as permit fee for each house connected, the receipt of which must be endorsed upon the application; the fee to be paid to the collector of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 10. All connections with sewer must be inspected by the Sewer-tapper before the trench is filled, whether the service pipes have been run to the building line or not, and all appointments must be made when the permit is issued.

Inspection to be made before trench is filled.

Sewer pipes, or main drains are not to be raised or lowered, or otherwise changed, except under the inspection of the Sewer-tapper, and by permit from the Engineer Commissioner. Tunnelling is prohibited. All connections with pipe sewers must be made with Y branches. In every case where connection with brick sewers is made a terra-cotta junction block must be used. Branches and junction blocks, and all other material for use in or about the public sewers must be purchased from the District.

No changes allowed except upon permit.

Connections how made.

SEC. 11. Pipe sewers must not be cut, nor any connections be made in any manhole, trap, or lateral. Each house must be drained by a separate drain not less than six inches in diameter, having a fall of not less than one in forty, laid (inside the building line) entirely within the lot to which it belongs, and connecting outside the building line, only with that part of the system of drainage intended for it as shown on the general plans of sewerage on file in the office of the Engineer Commissioner. If this drain pipe be of terra-cotta it must be laid upon a foundation of hydraulic cement concrete four inches in thickness.

Pipe sewers not to be cut. Connections not to be made with manhole trap or trap lateral.

Each house to be separately drained. Fall required.

SEC. 12. All concrete pavements must be repaired by the contractor doing such work for

Concrete pavements to be repaired by contrac-

tor, and granite block pavements by Superintendent of Repairs.

Deposit to be made for removal of pavements.

the District Government, and all granite block pavements by the Superintendent of Repairs, at rates to be fixed by the Commissioners. Persons desiring to remove said concrete or granite block pavements must first deposit with the chief clerk of the Engineer's Department the estimated cost of repairing the same, the receipt for which must be exhibited before the permit is issued. After the completion of the work the surplus, if any, will be returned.

Valves to prevent back flows to be used whenever necessary.

SEC. 13. All permits for tapping sewers are given on conditions that owners take all risk of damages that may result from water setting back into premises from the main sewers, and in order to prevent as much as possible the setting back of water the owner shall be required, at his own cost, to put in a self-acting or other valve in all cases where the back-flow from a sewer is to be apprehended; and it shall be the duty of the owner to keep the valve in order, and he must be responsible for its action in all cases. When the sewer connection is of iron, and carried up within the premises as a close pipe, without opening or connections of any kind, above the level of all back-flow, the flood-valve may be dispensed with, being unnecessary.

Time allowed for filling trench, &c.

SEC. 14. The trench must be filled up, thoroughly puddled and rammed within forty-eight (48) hours after making the connection, and the pavement relaid not less than twenty days after filling, all in a workmanlike manner,

satisfactory to the District Commissioners, so that no settling will occur. All rubbish must be removed from the street on completion of the work.

SEC. 15. A running trap shall be placed on ^{Trap on main drain.} every main drain at an accessible point, and a man-hole, with suitable iron cover, shall be constructed over the trap to admit of cleaning the same.

SEC. 16. Every main drain shall have an ^{Main drain to be ventilated.} inlet for fresh air entering on the house side of trap, and carried to such point as may be approved by the Inspector.

SEC. 17. When necessary to lay a soil pipe ^{Iron soil pipe under buildings.} under a building, such pipe shall be of iron with leaded joints, and shall be so located as to be readily accessible for inspection. Such pipes shall be kept above ground, if practicable, shall be not less than four (4) inches in diameter, and shall extend above the roof of house; this extension shall be at least four (4) inches in diameter.

SEC. 18. Where pipe passes under walls of ^{Relieving arch to protect pipe from settling of walls.} house there shall be a relieving arch to prevent pipe being broken by settling of brick work.

SEC. 19. The weight of all iron pipe used ^{Weight of iron pipe under ground.} under ground shall be not less than—

For six-inch pipe, 20 pounds per lineal foot.

For five-inch pipe, 17 “ “

For four-inch pipe, 13 “ “

For three-inch pipe, 9½ “ “

For two-inch pipe, 5½ “ “

Pipe to be coated
with coal tar.

SEC. 20. All iron, soil, and sewer pipes shall be coated inside and outside with coal tar ap-

Changes of direc-
tion.

plied hot. All changes in direction shall be made with curved pipes, and all connections

Connection of
lead with iron pipe.

with Y branches and one-eighth bends. All connections of lead with iron pipes shall be made with brass thimbles, full size of iron pipe, caulked into the iron with lead, and plumbers' wiped joints.

Sub soil drains
to be provided.

SEC. 21. Sub soil drains shall be provided whenever dampness of site of any proposed dwelling is known to exist. These may be of terra-cotta, not connected with sewers, but discharge into a manhole over running traps, and have a back water valve.

Vaults, sinks and
cess pools not to be
connected with
drainage system.

SEC. 22. No vault, sink, cesspool or drywell shall be in any way connected with the drainage system of any house, and all vaults, sinks, or cesspools must be water tight.

Rain-water lead-
ers, &c.

SEC. 23. Rain-water leaders when placed inside of any house shall be of iron with leaded or screwed joints; and when opening below or near any windows shall be effectually trapped.

Flue not to be
used as ventilator.

SEC. 24. No brick, sheet-metal, or earthenware flue shall be used as a sewer ventilator, or trap vent.

Pipes to be con-
centrated.

SEC. 25. All soil, drain, waste and supply pipes shall be concentrated as much as possible, protected from exposure to frost, and shall be so located as to be readily accessible for inspection.

SEC. 26. Every soil, drain, or waste pipe inside of the building line and five (5) feet exterior thereto, shall be of iron. Soil and drain pipes to be of iron.

SEC. 27. No trap shall be placed on or at the foot of vertical soil pipes so as to impede circulation of air. No traps on vertical soil pipes.

SEC. 28. All water-closets, sinks, basins, wash trays, &c., shall have suitable and approved traps placed as near as practicable to said fixtures. When traps shall be used.

SEC. 29. Each and every trap shall have a *special* vent pipe of iron, extending either above the roof of house, or into the soil pipe above the highest fixtures. Ventilation of traps.

SEC. 30. The vent pipe for each water-closet trap shall be not less than two (2) inches in diameter, and for traps under other fixtures not less than one and one-fourth inches; but if exceeding ten (10) feet in length this pipe shall be not less than one and one-half (1½) inches in diameter. Size of vent pipe.

SEC. 31. Waste pipes from bath tubs, wash-stands, and sinks shall not be connected with the trap of a water-closet. Connection of waste from bath-tubs, wash stands, and sinks.

SEC. 32. There shall be no direct connection of water-closets above basement floor with service pipe. No direct connection of water-closet with service pipe.

SEC. 33. Means for thorough flushing of all Flushing to be secured.

soil pipes, drain pipes, and water-closets shall be provided in every case.

Tanks or cisterns to be used when necessary.

SEC. 34. Where water supply is not ample for proper flushing of water-closets, &c., the Inspector of Plumbing may, in his discretion, order the erection of a tank or cistern into which water may flow at night, or into which it may be pumped.

Supply for domestic purposes not to be drawn from tank or cistern.

SEC. 35. Cisterns or tanks erected for purposes described in the foregoing paragraph shall not have an overflow pipe connected with any drain, and water supply for domestic purposes shall not be drawn therefrom.

Safes, and refrigerators to be specially drained.

SEC. 36. All safes and refrigerators shall be drained by special pipes not directly connected with the house drain or main sewer.

Wooden wash-trays, and sinks prohibited.

SEC. 37. Wooden wash-trays and sinks are prohibited inside of buildings; they shall be of non-absorbent material.

Notification to be given by the plumber in writing.

SEC. 38. The Inspector of Plumbing shall be notified promptly in writing by the plumber, and upon blank forms to be provided for that purpose, when the plumbing work on any house is completed and ready for inspection. All inspections shall be made as soon as possible after such notification, and the pipes shall be tested by filling with water. No part of the plumbing work of any house shall be covered, or in any manner hidden from view until after such inspections shall have been made, and a certificate of approval issued by the Inspector.

Work to remain exposed until after approval.

SEC. 39. The Inspector shall promptly condemn and order the removal of any defective material, or of any work done other than in accordance with the provisions of these regulations. Defective work and material to be condemned.

SEC. 40. Prosecution for infringement upon the provisions of these regulations shall be made by information filed in the Police Court in the District of Columbia. How prosecution shall be instituted.

SEC. 41. These regulations shall be subject to alteration or amendment at any time. Amendments, &c.

SMITH TOWNSHEND, M. D.,
Health Officer, District of Columbia.

Approved.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON, *November 17, 1882.*

Order.

Ordered :

That the above amended regulations are approved ; and it is further required that permits shall be kept at hand during the progress of the work, to which they relate, and that they shall be exhibited whenever required by the proper officers of the District. The police are instructed to arrest any one found making any excavation in the streets or making any sewer connection without permits, as required by the foregoing regulations.

J. R. WEST,
THOS. P. MORGAN,
G. J. LYDECKER,

*Major of Engineers, U. S. A.,
Commissioners of the District of Columbia.*



